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To the Inhabitants of Vermont 27th Nov. 1778.
To the Inhabitants of the State of Vermont

Gentlemen,

Whereas the General Assembly of this State did appoint me to wait on the Honorable Meshech Weare Esq, President, of the Council of State of New Hampshire with a letter from his Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esq; and another from Col, Ethan Allen &c. And whereas several of the members of the Honorable Council and Assembly of this State desired me to write to them (on my return from New Hampshire) the state of affairs relative to the union with sixteen towns east of Connecticut River and this State: I therefore beg leave to state the following as a short state of the matter, viz.
When I arrived at Exeter found the General Assembly then sitting, delivered said letters to the President who after examining the same in Council sent them to the House for their inspection: the said letters were again read and largely discoursed on and a Committee appointed from both Houses to answer the same — I being then present besides having many other conferences with the Members of both Houses, found that they were unanimous for maintaining inviolable their Jurisdiction to the east banks of Connecticut River, but that they had no disposition to interfere with the State of Vermont in its first discribed limits, which will more fully appear by their resolution in the affair of Mr Hovey and an extract of President Weare's letter to Col Ethan Allen which are as follows viz.
State of New Hampshire, "In the House of Representatives Nov 10th 1778.
According to the vote of the House of this day the Honorable Council and House being met in the assembly [redacted] Chamber

Chamber, the Honorable Meshech Weare Esq in the chair proceeded to take under consideration the petition of Nathanick Hovey prefirred to the Honorable Committe of Safety of this State on the 24th of September last; and the further transactions thereon — and upon consideration of the same, came to the follow resolutions and reported, that two hundred pounds be granted to the said Hovey, out of the treasury by order of the President, for his necessities to be by him accounted for; and that the persons named as riders in his complaint and petition, together with Nehemiah Estabrook, of Lebanon, be notified to attend the hearing of said petition before the General Assembly if sitting or committe of safety of this State in the recfs, on the second thursday of December next, and that the Secretary be directed to issue proper notice to the said persons; and that Capt. Samuel Mainson, of Bascowen, be directed to notify them accordingly which report was read and accepted.

Sent up for concurrence.

John Dudley Speaker Pro tem.

A copy Examined by E. Thompson Secy.

As you have been so full and explicit in your own sentiments I trust the body of your people will be of the same opinion as I am sure every sensible person will, notwithstanding blind designs of some unwary or never to be contented men whose views must certainly be more detrimental to you than they possibly can be to Newhampshire —

Whatever may be determined by Congress relative to the acknowledgement of your independence will be freely acquiesced in by this State.

I have

I find by inquiring into the situation of the grants (so called) east of Connecticut River that the towns in the County of Cheshire are almost unanimously represented in the General Assembly of New Hampshire and that about twelve towns in the County of Grafton are also represented in the Assembly of New Hampshire and that in the sixteen towns in connection with this State by said Union there is a large minority in opposition to said union.

Amongst the arguments made use of by New Hampshire to support their claim to Connecticut River are the following, viz.

That by the determination of the court of Great Britain in establishing provinces in North America, said lands were in the jurisdiction of New Hampshire, and in consequence of that many charters for towns were granted by the Governor of said Province with all the privileges and immunities that any other towns in said province did enjoy, which they held under the crown untill the Revolution, at which time circular letters were sent to the several towns thro' that Province to choose members to form a Congress to transact the political business of the State; at which time several of those towns now in union with this State sent Members. About a year after a second Congress was chosen, and some of said towns sent members. Said Congress then established a plan of government which was to remain in force untill the exigences of the State would admit of more leasure time to form another, which plan or constitution said State has ever since and now remains to be governed by. Since the depreciation of money, an additional pay has been given by the State of New Hampshire to the

Militia 290

Militia of said State, in addition to their continen
tal pay when in such service; which pay has been
cheerfully received by the militia of said towns.
Thus Gentlemen I have given you a short state of
facts, agreeable to the best information I can get,
by which you will observe that the State of New-
Hampshire is willing that the State of Vermont should
be a State in its first discribed limits west of
Connecticut River.
I have also to observe that by several authentick
accounts lately received from the Honorable Continen
tal Congress that the delegates are willing that the
State of Vermont should be a State within its first
discribed limits, & the delegates of New York excepted
which fully appears from that Honorable Body's not
passing any resolves against any of the proceedings
of the State of Vermont since its first formation, altho'
often requested by New York.
Having met with several printed papers published
by order of those gentlemen that withdrew from
the general assembly of this State, at their session in
October last; but as I did not design this letter for
an answer thereto, shall make but few remarks
thereon.
In the course of which papers there is a request to all
towns on the grants on both sides of the River whether
united with the State of Vermont or not, to send mem
bers to form a convention to consult and agree upon
measures whereby we may all be united together, by living
and remaining a distinct State, on such foundation
that we may be admitted into consideration with
the United States of America and under their pro-
tection &c.
A very large part of the towns on the grants west of
the Mason line and east of Connecticut River, are

represented

represented in the General Assembly of New Hampshire, and consequently they are represented in Congress: therefore they cannot withdraw from New Hampshire, and connect with any other body politick, and present themselves to Congress to be taken into consideration with the United States for they are already taken into consideration by the way of New Hampshire— The way those towns cont'd act were they to send members to said convention, would be to act on the latter clause of the warrant, which is to claim the ancient jurisdiction of the government of New Hampshire, and in that way defend ourselves against the pretended right of jurisdiction of any other State, and thereby become one entire State according to the extent of New Hampshire Province as it stood before the decree in 1764 took place— but whether that is the design of the convention or not I leave the candid reader to determine

I appeal to every person's own conscience in the State of Vermont; whether, when the inhabitants on the west and east sides of the Green Mountains, first connected together to become one body politick, they did it under a view that the grants east of Connecticut River would join them, and if it had not been for that, they would not have joined in said plan.

All those that did unite together in one body politick to form a State west of Connecticut River, will I doubt not on due consideration, pursue that desirable object; (if any difficulties should arise so as unhappily to separate those towns east of Connecticut River from this State) for in that view of the case we should then enjoy all we first expected; and as the constitution of this State is so happily calculated to preserve inviolable the rights of the people; and as in it there is ample provision made for the propogation of the gospel,

together 318

together with proper seminaries and schools of learning which are among the greatest blessings God in his wisdom ever bestowed on the fallen race of man.

By what has already been elucidated, it appears that the State of Vermont is in favour with the United States of America; therefore if the people in said State are and continue steadfast to maintain the same, they will without doubt support the independence of said State, as long as the United States do theirs.

Since the choice seems to be in the breast of the good people of this State whether they will be governed by the agreeable constitution they have made, or lay that aside and seek for connections with a neighbouring State which is some in debt, and whose known plan of representation is by numbers, so that it would take five or six of our new towns to send one member, and when we consider that those infant plantations have gone thro' numberless fatigues and expences to defend their just rights from the arbitrary power of New York; and since this present contest we have been a [redacted] frontier to three neighbouring States, our inhabitants have been obliged to flee before their enemy, our soldiery often called forth by alarms who have fought and bled nobly in the field for the defence of their country — is there not a much greater probability that we should be considered for those extraordinary difficulties, by the Honorable, the Grand Council of America in defraying the expence of this unnatural war, than by the legislature of any State whose private interest would be nearer connected with ours.

I doubt not but every reasonable person will, on due deliberation determine that it is best, wisest and cheapest for the good people of this State to steadily pursue their plan of government, which will transmit

to poste

to posterity the blessings of a free State.

I am Gentlemen with due respect

your most obedient

Humble Servent

Ira Allen

Dresden November 27th 1778

N.B. The laws of the State are come to hand and will be ready for sale in a short time.

Letter from Bez Woodward to Gov.r
Benja.n Bellows.

Dresden 29.th Nov. 1778.

Dear Sir

Inclosed is a copy containing the substance of a Letter which has lately been sent to all the Towns on the New Hampshire Grants on both sides of Connecticut River - the purpose for which the convention is requested is such as I doubt not you will approve - I think a division of the Grants was ever unjust, and that this River should serve as a boundary between States, very inconvenient the connection between the two sides will ever be great, and to have at the same time under different governments very inconvenient for both - Mountains and heights of Land seemed designed by nature as the proper boundary of States, because the communication is small on account of the difficulty of passing them - I hope Lines may soon be widely spread for a union of the Grants on the two sides of this river; either for the purpose of uniting with the New Hampshire, or forming a new State on a permanent basis - The main object intended is a union and if that can be had, I am content to join with Hampshire or that, one next seperate, as shall be judged most equitable: and I believe that is the general sentiment of the people in this quarter.

15 Such a union was the principal ground
of our quarrel with Vermont, and they
at that time, by their own act of their
assembly, held up to view the same ob-
ject, their departure from which has
occasioned a withdraw of a greater part
of the members who attended their late
assembly from this side of the Moun-
tains; and they are determined to pursue
that object to the utmost of their
power — and I hope the people from your
parts will find their account in join-
ing in Convention for that purpose —
You will make what use you please
of the inclosed, but I hope it will
be in encouragement of the design there-
in held up to view, as I am fully
sensible of the great weight your in-
fluence will have in the affairs
Mr Woodward joins me in best re-
gards to yourself & Lady. — I am Sir,
with much respect, Your most
obedient humble Serv.t

Bezs. Woodward.

Col.o Bellows.

Gentlemen 12 January 1779

It being a matter of the Greatest importance the People of the united States of America live in the Strictest peace and Harmony and every matter of dispute between the sade States Relative to their Limits bounds and Jurisdiction be settled as soon as Possible that Each may Join with their Proper State in forming a Constitution agreeable to their minds — and as the State of N. York and the N. Hampshire Grants West of Connecticut River, have been a Continental Strife almost from the first Settlement of said Grants with regard to their and right of Jurisdiction, so that an intire Change of the Government of N York and of the principal Men in Administration to gather with all the proposals made by the Senate and Assembly of No-York, for a settlement of their old disputes have been to no purpose and every Jealosy Animosity and division is still Subsisting between them — It is well Known that the said Grants have formed into a Seperate State Known by the name of Vermont, and have Solicited the Hond Congress to be received as such — it is also known that the Greatest part of the County of Grafton and part of the County of Chesshire of this State Did Join Associate and Form a Union with said Vermont in becoming a Seperate State — and the said Union is now dissolved upon which a Convention was called Consisting of said Counties and part of said Vermont — the result and design of which is generally understood the State of N. York and pursuing every means in

2 them to prevent said Vermont from becoming a State and to Extend their Jurisdiction Over the whole of said Grants or State of Vermont an Event Should it take place doubtless would be productive of War and Bloodshed. Such Contentions is the present unhappy deirded and dangerous Situation of matters in dispute between N: York and the said Grants or State of Vermont, and between part of this State and that of said Grants or Vermont, viz: the above mentioned County. We, to prevent the Effusion of Blood, restore Peace and agreement and Establish right and justice: have taken the Liberty to address you and the other Towns in this State on a matter of such Moment — It is not our design to Suppose the State of Vermont from being received and Established as such but the Infantry of the Settlements the great divisions among them with regard to their being a State and the opposition of N: York renders very doubtfull Weather they will Succeed, and in case they Should not they must of necessity either be joined to N: York or their State — Policy Justice and Humanity direct that they should bee Joined to the Latter, which doubtless would appear from the strictest Examanation of original Right but not to Enter into such a long Train of argument is too much for this Letter, let us consider a few general Things and such as in our opinion is sufficient to demonstrate to any understanding the Truth of the above Proposition viz: that the grants of the State of Vermont ought to be to this State rather than that of N. York. 1st the said Grants or State of Vermont are situate very convenient to a part of this State: but at a great distance from the seat of government said

State of N. York. 2dly That there always hath been and now is a good agreement between said grants and this State and a greate disagreement between them and N. York. 3dly That this State is to Small for its intrest, and that of N. York very extensive already. Let any one well consider and Consult his own feeling and say is it Reasonable that many of the People of said Grants n State of Vermont Should be under the necessity to travel upwards of 300 miles to the Seat of Government and there join an assembly with which they are variance, when the majority is against them. 3 to 1: if Justice and Humanity will not induce us to interpose in there behalf, let Policy direct us to consult our own good — no one after being acquainted with said Grants n State of Vermont Can say that the Land is not worth duble that of this State and every one must allow that the intrest and welth of such an inland County as this and the said Grants Consists in the Soil of the Land and therefore the Wealth of this State must increase in proportion to its Extent and Fertility of Soil. Wee mean not as we said before to oppose the Establishment of the State of Vermont, but if no steps are taken on our part untill the matters between them and N. York are finially determined, it will be to late — We therefore beg Liberty to propose the following methods of Collecting the Sence of this State on said important matter, viz: That Each Town in publick meeting appointed for that purpose here in mentioned and direct their Representative to use his influence that Claim may be laid to the said Grants upon the princi-

6 ples thereinmentioned att their next Sessions
of assembly, and that an Agent be appointed
to Conduct the business att the Honble Congress
Circular being Sent to each Town in the State.

We are Gentlemen

Your most Obedient

Humble Servants

State of N. Hampshire
January 14th 1779.

Letter from Benja Woodward to the
Hon.ble Benjamin Bellows Esq.

Dresden 15.th April 1779.

Respected Sir

The Committee appointed by the Convention held at Cornish last December had a meeting yesterday at which they appointed two of their number viz.t Gov.r Marsh and Col.o Olcott to wait on yourself, Col.o Ashley & to obtain advice in regard to measures expedient to pursue in order to effect a permanant union of the Grants on the two sides of Connecticut River for the purposes of civil Government, but they are unexpectedly disappointed from going -

The people in these parts (we apprehend) are willing to join either New Hampshire or Vermont, as shall appear to be best, in case matters shall be put under good regulations; but will not consent to be parted.

Had the measures undertaken by New Hampshire at their last Session relative to the Grants, been determined as they seemed to promise, we should have been no longer held in doubtful expectation respecting the matter - but as they have seen fit to postpone a determination till June, we would wish to take every measure which may have a tendency to facilitate a favorable issue - One object those Gentlemen

sure to have conferred with upon them,
and the expediency and probability of
obtaining a full Convention of Delegates
from all the towns on the Grants on
both sides the river to confer on matters before the next sessions of the
Assembly of New Hampshire, that
we may cultivate a union, and
through that channel communicate to
them the sentiments of the towns more
fully than has yet been done; which
the Committee apprehend is necessary
and if upon favored that object, to re-
quest your assistance in calling one
as they fail of waiting on you, they
with some others have requested me
to write this, desiring your attendance
on the meeting of the Committee, which
is to be held here on the 2d instant,
if you can consistantly do it, or other-
wise communicate your sentiments
on the premises by a letter, as it is
likely they will at that time agree
to send to the towns for a Convention
unless otherwise advised.

They are desirous also to be informed
whether New Hampshire is sincere
and fixed in the proposal to extend
their claim over the whole of the Grants
and any other matter which has
come within your knowledge relative
thereto. I write this in behalf of a
number of the Committee and am,
Sir, with much respect and esteem

Your most obedient
and humble Servant
Bezaleel Woodward.

Col. B. Bellows Esq.

Sir

My acquaintance with you causes me to take the liberty in a few words, tho' unasked, to give you my advice, relative to those persons whom you have in Custody, and are trying, or are about to try, for their opposition to the authority of the State of Vermont — It has been intimated to me by some men of influence on this side that it is your determination to punish them in a corporal manner by wipping — the consequence of which I very much fear, as this would not only make them irreconcilable enemies, whereas they may perhaps be won over to you by mild usage; but also cause some of their Friends on this side the River; at present no enemies to your rising State, to espouse their cause, and I fear it may not be in my power to prevent their carrying matters to the last extremity. I should think however heinous you may imagine their crime to be (as I do not intend to Justify them) it might be best all things considered to proceed no higher than to a pecuniary punishment, as you must be sensible that any severe measures in present circumstances may serve to create prejudices in the minds of the members of the United States in Congress, and be an obstacle to your obtaining their acknowledgement — But however Sir as I must be short I fear if you persist in the measures I am dissuading from (if that be your intention as I know

nothing but by heansay) that it will be the occasion of shedding of blood among ourselves which I should be very sorry for, as at present there is a very good understanding between us, and it is my wish and desire and shall be my endeavour it may continue. —— excuse this freedom and rest assured that I am no party man but consult the Publick weal of your State and this, in the above advice — and am yours to serve at all times subordinate to the high obligations of —— and my Country.

Letter from Ira Allen to Col. Benj. Bellows.

Westminster May 29th 1779.

Dear Sir,

Received your favour of the 26th Instant on the 27th and marked well the Contents (but the Exegencies of Affairs has not permitted me to answer you untill now) I sincerely Thank you for your friendly Advice & Apprehend that Things were Represented to you in a most Agravated Light.

Previous to the Reception of your Letter the same measures were pursuing that was therein Recommended

It is not our Design to Treat the Inhabitants of this County with Severity but with as much Lenity as the Nature of the Case will admit — Yet the Authority of this State must be Supported for Commissions from Two Different States Can no longer Subsist together we mean not to boast of our Victory Over those Gentlemen that were in favour of N. York in this County but hope to make them our Friends & have the Pleasure of Treating them as such —

But we mean this movement as a Defiance to the old Government of New-York with whom we have Long Contended for our Properties &c.

I am Sir,

with sentiments of Esteem

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

Ira Allen.

Col. Benj. Bellows.

At a Convention of Delegates from the several Towns in the County of Chesshire, in the State of New Hampshire, held at Walpole, in said County, on the 15th Day of November in the year of our Lord, one Thousand seven hundred and eighty. 15 Nov 1780

Voted, That Dr. Page, Col. Hunt, Capt. Holmes, Daniel Jones, Esq. and Col. Bellows, be a Committee to confer with Gentlemen from any parts of the Territory called the New-Hampshire Grants, concerning the Jurisdiction of the said Grants, and to consider what is proper to be done by the Inhabitants thereof, relative to their Jurisdiction; that the same may be ascertained and established. Which Committee after due Enquiry and Consideration, report as follows, viz. The Committee appointed by the Convention, held at Walpole, November 15th, 1780. do report, that we have conferred with the several Gentlemen present, who were Committees from the different parts of the Territory called the New Hampshire Grants, viz; Cumberland Gloucester, & Grafton Counties, and do find that many Matters lately agitated with respect to the Jurisdiction of the New Hampshire Grants, render a Union of the Inhabitants of that Territory indispensibly necessary. The said Inhabitants received the Grants of their Lands from the same Jurisdiction, and settled them so like a Union was extant, which was an implicit Engagement of Authority that it should be continued. But we were unjustly deprived of the Advantages resulting from it

in the year 1764, by an arbitrary decree of Great-Britain, to which we never acceded. Which Decree however, cannot be esteemed efficacious, since the Declaration of Independence; it being one of those ingenious Measures by which they were attempting to oppress the Colonies; and for which we have since thrown off Subjection. This being the Case, the Union re-exists. And shall we throw it off! God forbid. The Situation of the Territory aforesaid, by Reason of their being a Frontier, as well as many other Matters which are obvious respecting Commerce, and Wars actions of a public Nature, makes it expedient that they be united in all their Interests, in order to make their Efforts in that Quarter against the common Enemy more vigorous and efficacious. In respect to Government, great Disadvantages may arise by a Division. In that Case Delinquents may easily evade the Operation of Justice, by passing from one State to another and thereby induced more readily to practice Iniquity in that Part where the Body of Inhabitants and the principal Traffick center. And we imagine that a Union of public Interests, is the only Means by which the Contentions and Animosities now Subsisting among the Inhabitants of the Territory aforesaid, can be brought to a happy Issue. For so long as the course of Justice is in different Channels, where People are so nearly allied, Disturbances will arise. From authentic Information, we cannot but apprehend, that the State of New Hampshire is greatly remiss, if not grossly negligent (to call it by no harsher Name) in trusting Affairs of such great Importance as the Settlement of their Western Boundary to a Committee, some of whom we conceive, would disgrace the Lots of half the

An address to the people of New Hampshire and of the other United States ——

Fellow Citizens and Countrymen

We are Inhabitants of what used to be called the County of Cheshire without Mason's Patent or Claim, lying on the east of Connecticut River, and until of late, disposed ourselves indisputedly to be included within the Territorial Jurisdiction of the State of New Hampshire; and with you of this State, to be comprehended within the Consideration of the United States: And being averse still to consider ourselves, or be considered by others under any other predicament; we beg leave to lay before you an account of the true State of our affairs, and the Machiavilian methods that have been taken, and are now using to take off this our connection, prejudicial as we apprehend not only to the interest of this State, but the united States also, and the common cause we are engaged in —— However of this we leave you to Judge from certain facts, which we suppose you to be generally unacquainted with.

The Inhabitants of a certain Tract of land west of Connecticut River commonly known by the name of the New Hampshire grants, being by the order of the King of Brittain in Council, annexed to the Province of New York, and put under that Government, did so continue, not without some uneasiness Chiefly in the Western part of s.d Territory, untill the March 1775 preceding the ever memorable commencement of Hostilities between us and Brittain at Lexington; where some Rawsons disaffected to the New York Government, attempting to break up the Court at Westminster, one of their

number being Slain, and another mortally wounded by the Sheriff and his Posse; in his endeavours to suppress the insurgents. That unhappy event occasioned the addition of Spirits and numbers to the opposers of that Government as enabled them to effect their designs. The People concerned in that transaction Supposed themselves to be engaged in the Common Cause of the Colonies, and generally reputed the Court party to be opposed to the same and as many of them afterwards either from principle, or by reason of what they esteemed persecution, proved to be Tories, this served to give a more plausible colouring to the truth of the above Supposition. In addition to the name of Tories, which the generality of the Court Supporters had obtained, the Title of Yorkers was joined, and to serve a turn were made Synonimous. The other part of the People under the direction of some warm Leaders always inimical to New York, taking advantage of the times, when this and York State, who each had claims of Jurisdiction over them, were busily engaged against the common Enemy, did erect themselves into an Independent State, by the name of Vermont. The Yorkers were pretty generally deniers of the pretended authority of the Vermont State, and acted as they were able under the Government of New York: But being a minn part, and ineffectually supported by York, by the indefatigable Zeals, inpetuous and violent measures of the Vermonters, they were at length reduced to the borders of Dyspair: But in the Fall of the last Year in conjunction with some on this Side the River not so friendly to the common Cause, a Scheme of those of Vermont with the Counties of Grafton and Cheshire to Masons Claim, was projected, and approved of (if we may credit reports and News Papers a-

counts) in Brittain. To execute s.d Scheme they used the influence of some on this side the River, well attached to this State, who at first did not discern their ostensible, not to be their real design, but discerning their deceit, deserted them immediately and have ever since opposed them. By this meadure and the progress maide towards accomplishing their deep laid plots, the dying hopes of Yorkers and Tories are revived, and such a total change of men and meadures has taken place as is surprising and we think alarming, and demands not only your deep attentions but the consideration of all the United States. For if our fears are not groundless, and we think they are not, the common enemy have by policy effected more in this quarter than they have been able to do by force any where else. To let you into the knowledge of the Mystery that now worketh so far as facts and undersigned discoveries will serve the purpose: You must be acquainted with our State on this side the River. The County of Cheshire, when the people of this State by their Representatives in convention took the Government upon themselves, joined with them and proceeded in Union untill the temprary Constitution of Government now Subsisting was formed at the recommendation of General Congress. But their Leaders disliking the mode of Representation, and taking umbrage at some other matters brought the people, a few Towns excepted, into a general falling off from this State, who have done nothing since towards defraying State or Continental Charges: These were ripe for a union with Vermont for reasons too obvious to need mentioning.

The other County, viz. that of Cheshire without Masons claim has all along joined with the

rest of the State in the Offices and duties of Govern
ment, furnishing their proportion of men and
money, according to State and Continental requi
sitions, untill the strange Coalescence of parties
took place last Spring which we are now to
describe, and also the Suspicious conduct of
Vermont State.

The principal and most zealous promoters
of this Union, are the Yorkers on the other side,
with the Tories on this side of the river; together
with many of those who formerly prosecuted
the former mentioned persons as Murderers and
enemies to their Country. Men justly and now
lying under bonds, others subjected to imprison-
ment and confinement, with their Judges and
witnesses against them, are now preferred to the
first Offices of Government; The former not retrac-
ing or professing a change of sentiment, as to the
justice of our common cause; but rather a-
vowing their opinion to be right, that our cause is
not good, and considering the conduct of people
towards them in their present preferment, as
a compensation for their former ill treatment
for acting the part of honest men in refusing
to follow the multitude in what they thought
and still think not right.

On the other side of the River the authority, depart-
ing from their Constitution (not the first time) to
the infringement of the Freedom of Election, did,
in print, nominate to the choice of the Counties, for
Civil officers, if not Military also, men by them be-
fore esteemed (being Yorkers) enemies to their Coun
try, nay Murderers, being concerned in the
business affray. Such are the Simple and Compo-
nent parts, of which this Union is formed; and
such the mode of composition. What is consequential
to, or concomitant herewith, cannot be so much sur-

prising, tho not the less alarming: Vermont has had a name of being very Zealous in the common cause, and have perhaps anogated more to themselves in former acts against the enemy than was their due; We allow of ~~first~~ they seemed and we believe many were and still are sincere. While our Forces were in Canada, a guarded their Fires at Ticonderoga, and after Burgoyns Surrender, many individuals as Volunteers did eminent service, but as to any expence of men or money, the State was at during this Period, we hear not; an exemption from publick Taxes has operated much to the being and increase of their State, and with the commun People among us, was the principal motive to a Union with them tho' in this they are now like to find themselves disappointed, as their mode of taxation hereafter mentioned will shew.

The last Year Vermont has for a blind (and as we believe, for the first time) raised a body of men to guard their Frontiers; But they have kept ~~----~~ passing and repassing to and from Canada. They and the Enemy have been very peaceable upon the borders: Officers and Soldiers meeting amicably together: Deserters from the Continental Army and Conventioners have founds an Asylum in s.d State if they have not been encouraged to come there: And passes from authority have been given them to remain there Secreted, untill they could be sent off, without the leave of the United States. When the Enemy unhappily for them, (and as we suppose contrary to agreement) proceeded to something more than the appearance of Hostility, by killing a Vermont Seargeant and Capturing his Men: The men are released, an excuse is sent by express to the Governo of Vermont from the Officers of the Enemy, Lamenting the same, not with the condolence of an Enemy, but

a Friend. What these things Mean, you can Judge as well as we.

When the Vermont Jeneral Assembly was sitting at Charlestown, Certain resolves of Congress, especially one of the 20 of August which fixes their boundary at Connecticut River, as a preliminary to the consideration of their rights to be a State, and owned as such by Congress were debated; with such freedom and unreproved reflections on that August assembly, and all in open house, as were painful to us not of the Union to hear, and which we think at this time of day are hardly exceeded in the British Senate. And after all s.d Resolves of Congress, as others have by them been treated before, were evaded or set aside. And with renewed resolution they continued to exercise Jurisdiction on this side the River over a Territory Guarantied by Congress to Hampshire in behalf of the United States.

Of a Specimen of which we shall now give, and if ours Colouring is high, it is not above the life. They have levyed a tax of ten Shillings upon every hundred acres of unimproved Lands in order to pay their Soldiers employed as above said; if ours such adherents to Hampshire as refuse to give in their list. Their officers have ——— Hampshire people have assembled to consult about their privi ledges & preservation — read the riot act to them, and dragg'd some of them to Goal. Other Strange things we have to relate: Persons chose at our Hampshire annual meeting into Town office, taking the oath in due form as the Law directs, have presumed in Town affairs to act in s.d office according to Vermont Laws. You may see with us, Officers with a Hampshire Oath in one pocket, and a Vermont in the other — both in full force.

We forbear to mention some other things not to interesting to you the publick as to us: Such are the

unequal terms of Union, others having done nothing to support the common cause, while we in this County untill the Union have done our proportion; the mode of ratifying the Union by two thirds of the Town, which leaves room for a Union tho two thirds of the Inhabitants might be against it. We have other things worthy of your notice to mention were they needful to answer the purposed design of our addreis to you. But we forbear at present. If we have represented facts not as they are, it is undesignedly, the darkness of the deed, and the secrecy with which some of them have been committed, is a sufficient excuse. Now Brethren, as they means to persecute us to the utmost of their power, and as they give out, to carry their point as they have hitherto done by the most vigorous exertions during your quiescence, we now call upon you for immediate vigorous support, which if not granted we must apply to the United States in general, or to some particular State that will, for we mean no more to lie to Vermont in present Circumstances than to Canada or Brittain, as we view them to be the same.

If local boundaries of States formerly fixed by the Crown, tho perhaps unjustly done may be reversed by one party only, or nullified by the dwellers on the premises, we with the other Towns once belonging to the Bay State have a full right to revert to them which we should prefer to a Union with Vermont.

If every district so disposed, may for themselves determine that they are not within the claim of the thirteen States, even after by their own acts and doings they were united to one or more of them, we may soon have the ten hundred States, all free and independent.

Let Vermont west of the River be a State, if of right they belong to no other, and whether they do or

not, we refer to the highest powers, not them or us to determine. As to ourselves Congress has decisively annexed us to you, as our own act and deed have previously done, which resolution of theirs we expect to be carried into effect unless the United States must fall, and we expect you will concur with us to see this accomplished, relying on this we rest, your Brethren in the County of Cheshire without Masons claim, who still profess ourselves Subjects of the State of New Hampshire, and with them in connection with the thirteen United American States.

Commonsense Jus

In behalf of the rest

of the Hampshermans in the County of Cheshire

To the people of New Hampshire, and others of the United States. An Alarm.

Sir

Understanding by Mr. Colay that you decline to print the doings of the Convention of the County of Cheshire, lest it might expose you to the animadversions of the Authority of Vermont for containing some oblique reflections on that State, or an implicit denial of their Jurisdiction, which is the more surprising to me as your plan of Government is said to be of the most liberal and free construction, of any extant and has expressly provided in the Constitution that the Press shall be free — How any thing agreable to the Constitution, should be repugnant to the State or authority which are founded on and owe their existence to said Constitution is to me incomprehensible: and I trust upon second thoughts, viewing it in the points of light I have represented it, you will be the rather disposed to comply with my desire now repeated, and print the same, least a refusal should operate to the discredit of said State, or authority, in the opinion of some, as not adhering to their own Constitution, but arbitrarily departing from the letter and spirit of it, in a point so essential to freedom as the Liberty of the press is justly deemed to be

I am &c —

The foregoing argument so much concerning the honor of your States renders it needless for me

to add that a refusal will oblidge me to apply elsewhere to have the requested work done, and a printed account of the reasons for so doing may not be for your interest any more than for the States honours. But this I omit, as a word to the wise is enough.

State, rather than New-Hampshire should extend their Claim West of Connecticut River. Such from the best Authority that can be obtained, it appears that the Agents of the State aforesaid, is endeavouring to confirm a Division of the Grants contrary to their true Interests; which has given the People in the Grants just Occasion to rouse and exert themselves in Support of an Union of the whole. We therefore earnestly recommend as the only Means to obtain an Union, preserve Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love, and the Interest of the Community in general; That a Convention be called from every Town within the said Grants, to be held at Charlestown, on the third Tuesday of January next, at one of the Clock, in the Afternoon, and that one or more Members be appointed from each Town with proper Instructions to unite in such Measures as the Majority shall judge most conducive to consolidate an Union of the Grants, and to effect a final Settlement of the line of Jurisdiction.

B. Bellows.
S. Hunt.
D. Jones.
E. Robines.
W. Page.
} Committee.

In Convention at Walpole, November 16th 1780.

The above Report being repeatedly read, Voted, That it be accepted, and a sufficient Number of Copies be printed and transmitted to the several Towns on the New-Hampshire Grants, on both Sides of Connecticut River, for their Notice, to appoint one or more Members to attend the said general Convention, which shall be deemed a sufficient Notification.

By order of the Convention
Benjamin Bellows, Chairman.

A true Copy, Attest

Daniel Newcomb, Clerk.

1

Exeter June 20th 1781.

Gent.

Inclosed you have Copy of Three Petitions from different Towns in the County of Cheshire by which you will see the embarrassed situation we are in, occasioned by the Dispute relative to the New Hampshire Grants not being settled — New Hampshire flattered herself, that dispute would have been long since adjusted by Congress and have been at great expense in sending Agents to Philadelphia for that purpose, the amazing unexpected delay therein has been attended with the greatest mischief to the united States in General and to the State of New Hampshire in particular, it has given an opportunity to many disaffected persons who are the principal leaders in the disturbances, to do much injury, and who it is said, and not without foundation, have entered into negociations with the Enemy, in short, New Hampshire is brot into such a Dilemma and the Government [illegible] into such confusion by this delay in Congress that it is impossible for her to comply with the requisitions from Congress to any great degree while this dispute remains unsettled and it is in vain for them to expect it of her, as no supply of Men, Money or Provisions can be collec-

did at present of more than two thirds
part of that part of the State which lies
on the East side of Connecticut River; and
unless Congress brings the matter to an
immediate issue we cannot tell how
far the Contagion will run, but very much
fear the State will be very soon ruined
in a great measure, and not able to
contribute further towards the War; there-
fore you are directed to lay this dispatch
before Congress as soon as may be, and
earnestly request that they would im-
mediately take the matter under their
most serious consideration and make a
final decision thereon without any fur-
ther delay as it is of much greater
Consequence than can be described.

Philadelphia Augt 7th 1781 —

Sir

The affair of Vermont has been in Agitation a Long time Nothing is yet Determined on but I am convinced the result will be a recognition of it Independance Limiting it by the west Bank of Connecticut river, a Committee will be appointed to Settle the Terms upon which they may be received — a report of this Kind is now on the Table and will be Considered in two or three days — after it is Determined I shall set out for home as I have formerly Notified you —

Copy —

John Sullivan —

Philadelphia Augt 7th 1781 —

Dear Sir —

We have been Long Disputing about Vermont, Nothing is Decided — However the Event will be, as I conjecture, to make the grants West of the river Independant —

Copy —

Jas. Lovell —

Letter to Hon^ble President Wear from Roger Sherman.

Philadelphia 21 Augt 1781.

Dear Sir

A Committee has been here by an appointment in June to Unite their State with the United States & to Set in Congress — They knew nothing of the resolution of the 7th of August until their arrival in this City — After sundry Manœuvers Congress informed them by a resolution of yesterday (Augt 20) that it would be an indispensable preliminary to their independence & being admitted into the Union, that they relinquish all pretentions, east of the West banks of Connecticut river &c — The Committee will return home to consult their Constituents — The enclosed paper will give you good news.

I^y^rs &c —

Roger Sherman.

(Copy)

Letter from General H. Heath to the Hon.ble Al Nixon Esqr.

Head quarters Continental Village Sept.r 17th 1781.

Sir,

I have received undoubted intelligence from Canada, that the enemy have for some time be building canoes & small batteaux at St. Johns; baking hard bread at Montreal, & forwarding it to the same place — And this morning I learn that a Brigade of Troops have arrived at St Johns from Quebec. — This renders it very apparent that enemy have designs on the frontiers somewhere. — From the reported Size of the small craft, they seem calculated for the creeks & rivers towards the Settlements on the head of Connecticut river, rather than to cross the Lakes. In that case the western militia of your State can but local aid — I submit to you the continuing them to be in readiness for the purpose — I have sent a reinforcement to Albany. But the importance of the posts in the Highlands and present situation of the Army are such as forbid my making any considerable detachments to a distance, and constrain me to request that the number of militia called for from your State, in his Excellency's last Letter, may be sent on immediately — They may, if not already on their march this way, rendezvous at Charlestown number 4 — and remain there (or in case the enemy should attack the Settlements above, march to their Aid) until further Orders — In such case, please order the Issuing Commissary in your State to see that they are served with provisions while stationed in the State —

I have the honor to be with great regard,
Your Honor's most obt. servt
H Heath Maj. General.

P. S. In case the militia should not render prompt assistance at Stonington, please direct the commanding officer to repair to the head quarters, Preston, & summon of militia with him—

I am just informed that a fleet of about 40 sail appeared in the Sound off Huntington the 15th standing eastward—But whether they had troops on board, or were a vessel fleet is not known.

W. M—

Hon Mesheck Weare Esquire—

Copy Encl.

Ex Joseph Pearson D. Sec'y—

Letter from Josiah Bartlett to Brigad.r Genl Stellows.

State of
New Hampshire } In Committee of Safety Septr 28th 1781—

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of Majr Genl Heaths Letter in Consequence of which we have ordered Lieut Colo Reynels with the Regiment under his Command to march to Charlestown as soon as may be — We have requested of Colo Hunt to supply them with provisions as fencing Commissary in case there is no Continental fencing Commissary there; and if there is not any Continental Stores there, we have directed him to call on Esqr Blood for Beef and Bread, to whom we have wrote on the Subject and directed him to receive such Quantities of Bread in lieu of Beef from the Towns as may Necessary for that purpose — as we have no money in the Treasury to purchase with we must rely on the Towns supplying us with the Necessary Quantities — We shall request of Majr Genl Heath that the men may remain in this State or parts Adjacent that they may be ready to assist in case the Enemy should attempt to make any incroads from Canada — We have directed Colo Reynels in case there is no Continental Genl Officer in that department to Command him to Receive such Orders as may be given him from time to time by any Genl Officer belonging to this State — You will therefore give him such Orders & Directions from time to time as you may judge Necessary — By order of the Committee.

Josiah Bartlett Chairman.

Gen. Haldimand

Walpole. Dec.r 1. 1781

Sir

I received yours by Coll. Hale wherein you mention propositions for a Reconciliation made by Judge Olcott and consented to by myself and others, that I listened to Mr. Olcott's proposals is true, but that I consented to them or agreed to act upon them any farther than to render grounds to prevent the marching any Troops or commencing hostilities untill Mr. Olcott could have opportunity to consult some of the principal Gentlemen in Charlestown and above, more especially Col. Payne and Mr. Woodward e- steemed by me principal movers in our present disorders, and persons who have the common people much at Commands. If upon the aforesaid consultation, any method could be thought on and properly introduced to the Court of New Hampshire speedily, I engaged to retard any hostile movements untill the same could be laid before the Court, but I never made any proposales or designed to enter into any treaty with Mr. Olcott or any other person who adheres to the usurped Jurisdiction of Vermont so called; The motion for a reconciliation was made by Mr. Olcott and was to be properly laid before the General Assembly at the desire of him and those he should consult upon the subject. Now Sir, the proposals directed to me by Mr. Olcott and others are so far from being properly prepared,

153 to lay before the Court that they come as a daring affront upon any Gentleman who should be proposeds to lay them before the Court and upon the Court also. I therefore return said proposals and at the same time engage to delay the march of the Posse for Ten days from y.e Date of this, provided you or any other Gentlemen of your party have any overtures to make to New Hampshire according to the Spirit, true intent and meaning of my Conversation with Mr. Plett and I also engage to resign up Genl. Hale to you before the Commencement of hostilities, I shall expect an answer from, that I may pursue the business with honor and propriety. I forbear to say any thing respecting heated zeal, driving, and some other things you mention in your Letter which might, with propriety be animadverted upon, Therefore conclude Subscribing myself your

humble Sert.

Letter from the President to Brigadier Genl B Bellows.

State of New Hampshire } In Committee of Safety Exeter Dec.r 25th 1781.

Sir,

Your letter of the 2d Inst to the President was received on Saturday Evening, the Committee were summoned to meet in consequence of the same, They deem it necessary to raise the body of the Militia in the Counties of Hillsborough & Cheshire in order to liberate Colo. Hale and others and for apprehending and securing sundry persons who have acted under the pretended authority of Vermont for which purpose have authorized Moses Kelly Esq Sheriff of the County of Hillsborough (provided said Hale is unable to act in the premises) to call to his aid for the purposes aforesaid the body of Militia in said Counties. The Committee have wrote General Nichols directing him to raise the body of the Militia in the County of Hillsborough —

You will raise as many of the Militia of your County as possible on this occasion, and take the Command of them, that you may be in readiness to co-operate with those raised in the County of Hillsborough and Act agreeably to such directions as may be given by said Sheriffs or either of them. — You have inclosed a Copy of the Act of the Genl Court directing the procedure in such Cases. —

I am Your Friend.

Letter from Doct. Wm. Page to Genl. B. Bellows.

Charlestown. 7th Decr. 1781.

Sir

Your letter by Mr. Fuller is come to hands, have observed well the contents and can only say that I acted on the propositions Referred to in my letter of yesterdays date as I understood them by Mr. Olcott that I thought it not necessary to sign them as I agreed to them in my letter and the reason of my writing to you on the subject as I did was to Impress this Idea that we were engaged to support and Defend the Jurisdiction on each side and then Drew this conclusion that if matters were drove on your side it would come to Hostilities to convince you of which I inclosed the orders from the Governor and my letter which you may take the advantage of if there is any wish no misunderstanding between you & Mr. Olcott might prevent any goods Intention of Either have sent your last proposals to Messrs Payn & Woodward and desired them to give their Immediate Answer to them which I will Transmit to you. Except you give over every thing but hostilities in which case Expect you to notify me and that you will take no advantage of our delay in consequence of the proposals. Recd from Mr. Olcott.

I am Sir

Your Hble Servt

William Page.

Genl Bellows—

Letter from William Page to Brig. Gen. Benj. Bellows.

Charlestown 16th. December 1781.

Sir

The propositions proposed by Judge — consented too by yourself and others have duly consid-ered and consent to adhear to them if they are strick-ly attended to on your part, notwithstanding I am sensible I expose myself to censure, in this have been Governed by the advice of Gentlemen whose Judgment is superior to mine as well as the Regard I bare mank-ind being fully persuaded that the heated Zeal of your party aided by a Court who are determined to Ris-que their all in support of a favourite plan being now possest of the Spirit and Determination of the people of Vermont to maintain their Juris-dic-tion defend their Laws and Subjects and that an obstinent prosisting in driving the late act of New-Hampshire into execution will bring us to open hos-tilities which I deprecate but after all is there no other way adopted for a settlement shall indeav-our to defend myself and the Cause I have undertaken — a Copy of the letter I have Received from Governor Chittenden by the advice of Council on the other side the mountain and the orders to Governor Payne I inclose and have only to add that I Expect you will take no advantage of the present agreement by Bringing on your Party of a sudden

I am Sir

your Hbl Servant

William Page

Letter from Samuel Allcott to General Bellows.

Charlestown. 17 Decr 1781—

Sr

Doctr Page has communicated to me the Contents of your letter of this date at Some part of which I was greatly disconcerted as not comporting with the letter or Spirit of my Proposals, that they were your Proposals I never Supposed & I believed no person ever thot'— That my Proposals on either part were Authoritative were fully disclaimed at the Time they were made all that I supposed could or was intended to be done, was prudential & such as the exegency & Situation of Affairs required & admitted of, that they are my Proposals is true & that you did Something more than hear them, tho, t as true, I tho, t you assented to them so far as to delay or endeavour a delay in Coercive Measures untill they Should be considered of by proper Authority and further directions had thereon —— It seams by your letter that your Idea was, that some Proposition or Application by the People acknowledging the Authority of Vermont to the Court of N- Hampshire by which, if you mean more than the Concurrence of some men of Influence to said Proposals and the same certified to you, it is a matter I never tho, t on, & I think the Proposition of their being remitted you by Coll. Hale must evince the truth and reason of it— That Messrs. Paine & Woodward were proposed as persons proper to consult on the occation is true, but as

1st being necessary requisitions on your part or engagements on mine, I did not understand and tho, to the reasons I then objected to an immediate compliance were Satisfactory, however the proposals were immediately copied & are forwarded to those Gent^n and the moment I receive will send you if it can be of any avail) ——

It gives me great Paine that after so many endeavours & hopeful prospects, all should fail thro' Misunderstandings, I have acted with Sincerity & an ardent desire for Peace & the welfare of all Communities, & wish that my —— had been approved —

Am Sir, your Humt. Servt

Saml. Olcott

General Bellows —

P.S. if any thing in my Power can be done for the goods of our Neighbours would will — ingly endeavour it at any expence & if you can remind me of any ways should very gladly receive them — yours, &c —

S. Olcott

Dec. 17. 1781.

Sir

I received yours of the 14th inst. wherein you say, you have forwarded my Letter, & part of the contents thereof, to Messrs. Payne & Woodard, and that you will transmit their result thereon; I would observe that I am only a Servant of the Hampshire, that any thing upon this Subject directed to me, will avail nothing, as I am not vested with the supreme power and authority of the State, and for me, to undertake to negotiate any matters with the General Assembly, for its open and avowed Enemies, would be rather dishonorable, especially when I consider of the great trust and confidence by the Assembly reposed in me That, let the results of your consultations be, what they will, unless you relinquish all Claim & Pretentions of exercising Jurisdiction East of the River, will be noticed by me, no further than to give them a reading. It is the State of New-Hampshire and not me only, as an individual, of the State, with whom you have a controversy; it is to the Court therefore, that all Propositions for a reconciliation are to be made, and the time proposed in my last, for delaying hostile movements, will be abundantly sufficient, for you to lay any Matters before the Court, and obtain their determination thereon and

and in the meantime you will make
such Restrictions as you shall think pro-
per; for I am fully persuaded the Court
will listen to no terms unless you give
up all Retentions as aforesaid. I am Sir,
your Humble Servt.
B. Bellows.

Letter from B Bellows to Doc.r Wm. Page.

Walpole Dec.r 18.th 1781.

Sir

I received yours of the 17.th inst. wherein you say, you have forwarded my Letter, or part of the contents thereof, to Messrs Payne & Woodward, and that you will transmit their result thereon; I would observe that I am only a Servant of New Hampshire, that anything upon this Subject directed to me, will avail nothing, as I am not Vested with the Supreme power and authority of the State; and not for me, to undertake to negotiate any matters with the General Assembly, for its open and avowed Enemy, would be rather Dishonourable, Especially, when I consider of the Great Trust and Confidence by the Assembly reposed in me — That let the result of your Consultations be what they will, unless you relinquish all claim or Pretentions of Exercising Jurisdiction East of the river will be noticed by me, no farther than to Give them a reading — It is the State of New Hampshire and not me only, as an individual, of the State, with Whom you have a Controversy; it is to the Court therefore, that all Propositions for a reconciliation are to be made, and the time Prospect in my Last, for Delaying Hostile movements, will be abundantly Sufficient, for you to lay any matters before the Court, and obtain their Determination thereon, and the meantime you will make such Preparations as you shall think Proper; for I am fully Perswaded the Court will Listen to no Terms until you Give up all Pretentions as aforesaid, I am Sir

Your Humble Serv.t

B Bellows —

Letter from Dr. Wm. Page to Gen. S. Williams.

Charlestown 18 Dec.r 1781.—

Sir

Your letter of this evening received at 12 oclock the intelligence of which exceeds my expectations and cannot Reconcile it with your Conduct at what distance the Troops you please to Mention, the part you have Taken would have Induced one to believe you was more acquainted with the Movements of New Hamshire must therefore think you have taken the advantage of my opinions on the subject and that you had no Idea of accommodating matters and wish'd to gain by low Cunning which you could not effect by any force. I ment to have met you on Equal Ground and fairly Disputed out the matter. But you are not the man I conceived you to be. adieu

Wm Page.

258:45

Letter from Benj.a Bellows Brig.r Gen.l
To Capt. Taber — Washington —

Walpole. Dec.r 25.th 1781.

Sir

I received orders from the Committee of Safety of New Hampshire to Raise the Militia in the County of Cheshire to Co-operate with the Militia from the other part of the State to Liberate Col.o Hale who were confined in Charlestown Goal — I Issued my Orders to Lieutenant Colonel Heald to raise Col.o Hale's Regiment — but understand you have received no Orders to raise your Company, and conclude the orders have miscarried — I therefore request you to raise and Equip with Arms & Ammunition & three or four day Provessions, as many of your Comp.a as Possible and hold them in readiness to march within one week from this Date.

Benj.a Bellows. Brig.r Gen.l

To Capt. Taber
Washington —

Letter from Josiah Goldesmith to the Hon.r
Benj.a Bellows - Esq.r

Exeter. Decem.r 28th 1781.

Dear Sr

I take the Earlyest opportunity to give
you a Brief acct of matters as they operate with
our g.r Court in addition to what the committee
of safety Did the gen.l Court ordered the Sheriff
to call on the Maj.r General for any or all the
militia. But Jenine have ordered there march-
ing postponed for the present, as gen.l Eno and
Dott.r Page arived in Town which caused our
good Friends think of other measures as Page
informed that Capt.r Hails Bond was given up
and that he had come as ambassador of Peace
however he was not more than two livins in
Town Before Capt.t Lad had the Charge of him
he was Examined By a Comtt from Both houses
and Report was to Commit him to Close Confine-
ment on a motion made by Mr Sevil at Desire
of Dott.r Page to be admitted to Return on Bond
Comtt Report that he shall not be admitted to Bail
I Believe that Some of the principal Vermount Lead
ers on our Side of the River will soon Joyn Dott.r
Page in this place as measures are taken place
ought to be a Secret information of matters of
General Congress twenty Days, Since as also
your Letter, you wrote by me to the President of
which we expect answer soon — I have only
to add that the Cont are exceeding firm and
Know no Such State as Vermont Col. Allen
is in Town but meets with a very Cold Recep-
tion indeed and is Kindly Treated with Common

53 Compliance your Person and Counsel is greatly
Desired By all members of Both houses ——
With much Respect I Subscribe myself your
Hon.rs most and most humble and most obe-
dient Serv.t ——

Josiah Goldsmith ——

To The Hon.r Benj.a Bellows Esq.r

Letter from Josiah Goldsmith to the Hon.t
B. Bellows. Esq.r

Exeter. Decem.r 30. 1781.

Dear Sir

Since I wrote to you Gen.l Enos and
Coll. Allen Signifyed their Dislike By a
Letter to house for Imprisning Doct.r Page
which was Contrary to the Law of all Nations
and that they ware Ready to Enter on their
Misfchons But the Cort having Been often
Deceived by Mr. Allens Pelaver took no notice
of him or his Letter So By this time I Expect
he is Satisfyed and will Shape his Course to
Vermount. I have a Copy of a Letter from Mr.
Livermore at Congress, which I will Communi
cate that Part of which Respects Vermount which
are as follows the State of New York have Sent
Congress a Resolution of theirs by way of Pro-
test against the proceeding of Congress in the af-
fair of Vermount and as Vermont Does not Apear
to Comply with Congress in their Resolution of
Augt. Last I expect this work will be to go-
over again. President Wheelock in heart he
Professes to have nothing to Do about the State
of Vermont but to obtain Something for the Col-
ledge he also says he expected that Vermont
would Suit their Claim East of Connecticut
River agreeable to the Resolution of Congress.
So Sr you will see by this Copy that Vermont
has Set themselves a much larger Stint than
they can Do and now want N. H to help them
and you will Judge wheather it is Likely
that they will or not. when you understand
who was chosen Delegates to Congress Last Satur

day, Mr. Livermore and Mr. L. Langdon as great enemies to Varnum as is in the world we want your assistance at this time here as much as ever it was wanted in the army — altho Doct. Page says must Blame on you for the Disturbances in our Quarter and Changes you with Carying two faces — you must not think that the States will support the Dignity of the State on act. of the Troops Being Stoped for a few Days you may think as the Court Did for Reasons which you will be accounted Soon ——

I. with much Respect, I am your Honrs most obedient and most Humble Servt

Josiah Goldsmith —

To The Honl. B. Bellows Esqr

Sir —

The methods taken by the General Assembly for liberating Messrs. Bingham and Grandy, are so far from being effectual for that purpose, that the authority of Vermont have imprisoned the Sheriff of the County of Cheshire who was sent here, for the purpose aforesaid, the authority of said Vermont are determined to keep the Goal and their Prisoners, and also to withstands and oppose, (viret Armis) all Sheriffs and their Posses who may be imployed by New Hampshire to counteract any of their purposes or designs; it is said that they can raise 600 men who will resolutely dispute the Ground Inch by Inch. That the Posse should be raised to carry the Orders of this State into Execution now, is absolutely necessary. Something effectual must be done, dallying will not answer, and unless some force can be obtained from without the County of Cheshire, it will not be advisable to dispute the Ground any longer. You cant but be sensible of the ill consequences of such an attempt from within ourselves within this County and especialey within the Grants, for should the friends of New Hampshire Generally exert themselves at this time, it would universally alarm the Vermonters and many who would not otherwise arm in this quarrel, would exert themselves to the utmost to oppose the orders of the Assembly & all the

New-Hampshire Authority — I should think that if New Hampshire are determined to support and protect their Friends in this quarter & to maintain their Jurisdiction, it will be absolutely necessary that a sufficient force should be collected from without the Grants be sure, if not from without the County of Chesshire. You will put yourself in our circumstances and especially in those of the Sheriff and the other Prisoners, and I think you can't hesitate a moment respecting what is necessary to be done and how it should be done.

B. Bellows.

Hon.d Sir

Being prevented by bodily indisposition from doing, myself the honor of waiting upon you with a verbal account of our unhappy Situation in this part of the State, by reason of the claim of Vermont upon us, must do it as well as I can by writing, that the authority of the State may take such effectual measures as they in their wisdom may judge the present exigency of affairs calls for.

The Inclosed declaration and other acts shew that the pretended Officers of Vermont, notwithstanding any resolutions of the Congress of the United States, mean to exercise their authority east of Connecticut River, in all cases whatsoever in every place where their numbers render it safe for them so to do; and to prevent either officers or people still adhering to Hampshire from the exercising of any act of government or priviledge according to the laws of s.d State. If these things are suffered by this State, and the Government of Hampshire will sit still and see her faithful adherents dragged to Goal, for supporting in an orderly way her Jurisdiction over a Territory Guaranteed by Congress; our Case is pittiable —— Vermont has levied a tax upon the unimproved Lands on this as well as the west side of the River, and mean to collect it where they have a Majority, the consequence of which I much fear will be violent if not sanguinary measures. We wait with impatiance for some measures taken by you to allay our fears, and quiet our minds, under

our present prospects. If the wisdom of the State should think it necessary to use more vigorous methods than they have as yet done, as no doubt they will; Tho I mean not to dictate, yet I think it might be best for any Officers sent to support Government here, with their Passes to come from the grants, as it would be more likely to settle us in peace, than the employing any among us for this purpose; where we are so intermixed and near equally divided. — I must further let your Honour know that if effectual methods were taken by the State to secure some of the Leaders of the revolt, which I doubt not, might safely, if secretly and prudently attempted, be done; in all probability matters would rest quiet till the United States could do something decisive; if they did not take a turn in our favour. — You Honour will make such use of what I have wrote you in confidence, as the good of the whole State may call for, so as not to prejudice unnecessarily any against one who is with much sincerity your Honours most obedient and

Humble Servant —

Benjamin Bellows —

Walpole Jan.y 2.d 1782

Sir

I have often troubled you with a relative of our distresses and difficulties in this part of the State, notwithstanding I presume upon, and the rest of the Hon.ble Com.tee of Safety will excuse your wonted indulgence while I give you an account of some new difficulties, arising upon the Officers attempting to convey one Sam.l King of Chesterfield to Exeter; which ——— you will have an account of before this reaches you — Upon the return of the Mob, after proper refreshment at said Kings, they sought for all those, who were any way concerned in assisting the aforesaid Officers, some of which they got into their hands and have abused in a shameful and barbarous manner by striking kicking and all the indignities which such a Hellish pack can be guilty of, obliging them to promise and engage never to appear against the new State again and this is not all, they swore they will exterpate all the adherents to New Hampshire, threatening to kill, Burn and destroy the Persons and Properties of all who oppose them, that the friends to this State, cannot continue at said Chesterfield with their Families, but are obliged to such an Asylum in other Towns among the Hampshire People. I have been Respec-

table in habitants of said Chesterfield now
sheltering themselves under any roof; as to
what the greatest reason to think would
be treated by them in a barbarous manner
were they in their Power, I am credibly
informed that there is in said Chester-
field about an Hundred Persons who
support said King, rule Damn New
Hampshire and all their authority to
Hell, and say they, (New Hampshire) can
do nothing only in a mean underhanded
way; in short, they defy all the authority
and force of the State, and are determined
to support and maintain their usurped
authority, maugre all attempts that have
or shall be made to curb and restrain
their usurpations. The wrath of man and
the Raging of the Sea are in Scripture
put together; and it is the alone, who can
rule the latter, an restrain the former,
I hope and trust the author of Wisdom
will direct the Hon.ble Com.te to such
measures as will ultimately tend to the
peace and happiness of this part of the
State and more especially those adherents
to New Hampshire, who are in a state
suffering for Righteousness sake. I am
with all Esteem and respect

your very Humb.le Servant.

From Wm Heath to Brig.r Gen.l Sullivan.

Cantr Island.y 4th. 1782.

Sir,

Yesterday Afternoon, I received your favour by Mr. Brigham respecting the Cartel and unwarrantable conduct of a Number of persons towards sundry of the Inhabitants of this State; I immediately laid your letter before the General Court who took the same under their Immediate consideration — and this day joined in a Committee of the whole, to consult on the Measures that may be most proper to pursue in an Affair of so great Importance. It is the determination of the General Court to support the Authority of the State, and to take the most effectual Measures they can for the protection of the Inhabitants from insult and Outrage — The medical Corps will inform you of the Measures the Committee of the whole shall at present come into. Further information shall be sent you by every Convenient opportunity. I am Sir with great truth & regard your very Humble Servt

Wm Heath.

State of New Hampshire } In the House of Representatives Jan^{y} 8th 1782.

The Committee of the Whole, reported as their Opinion; "That an armed Force be immediately raised, and sent into the westerm part of this State for the defence and protection of the Inhabitants there; and to enable the civil Officers to execute their authority in that Quarter. — That the said armed Force consist of one thousand Men, including Officers. — That a Proclamation be issued & forwarded to the several Towns & Places in the western parts of this State, setting forth the Reasons for raising said armed force. — And that Woodbury Langdon Esq. or some other Delegate be immediately sent on to Congress to make a true representation of our present proceedings —

The foregoing report having been read & considered, Voted that the same be received and accepted —

John Dudley. Speaker. P. T —

In Council the same day, read and concurred.

E Thompson. Sec^{y}

Copy Cert^{d} —

by Joseph Pearson. D Sec^{y}

Walpole. Jan.y 11.th 1781.
1782

Sir,

I was informed by General Enos, on his return from Exeter, y.t it was probable Doc.t Page would be allowed to return in a short time, and further he recommended to the Inferior Court of Com Pleas, sitting at Charlestown to write the Hon.ble Assembly, or Committe of Safety advise them to allow it so to be, Supposing it would have a goods effect respecting our disturbances; what the sentiments of the Court may be I cannot certainly say, but I can say I imagine it would have a different effect; I take it to be good policy, that in order to suppress Insurrections the leaders of the incurgents are to be apprehended and kept from the Mob if possible; I am very far from wishing ill to the Doctor or desiring his being kept from his family and friends any otherwise than for the publick peace and tranquility; the Mob want nothing but a leader, to cause them perpetrate most shocking outrages, the apprehending some of the Commanders and the attempts upon others, have had no bad effect, people seem to be cooler and more fearful; to this it is in my opinion owing that the Court hath set peaceably and done business at this Term in this County; our Court of Common Pleas is sufficient for this County consequently one Sheriff, should the Doc.r be liberated undoubtedly there will be an attempt in February to hold a Vermont Court at Charlestown which would be attended with

bad consequences it would destroy the good we experience and prevent the further advantages we expect from the late spirited measures of the Authority of this State.

258:53

From M. Weare Prest. to the Honble B Bellows Esq.

State of New Hampshire } In Committee of Safety Exeter Feb.y 16.th 1782.

Sir,

As the Committee are desirous of being informed of those persons who have accepted of the benefit of the Proclamation sent to the western part of said State, This is therefor to desire you would give the Committee the best information you are able, of the number and the Names of the persons who have accepted the same, and as soon as possible, after the Expiration of the Term allowed —

M.r Weare Prest.t

Honble Benjamin Bellows Esq. —

Walpole Feb.y 22.d 1782.

Sir

In answer to yours of the 16.th inst. would observe that the late Act of Indemnity of the General Assembly hath not been embraced by as many Persons as might Rationally have been expected all Circumstances considered, it seems to be the opinion of People in General (for whom the Proclamation was designed) that only those who have accepted of Offices and been active therein are called upon to subscribe the Declarations, however some have taken the benefit thereof Viz. Daniel Jones Esq of Hinsdale, Obadiah Willson Esq of Surry, Nath.l Wentwell Prentice Esq; Attested. Heber Miller Esq. of Westmorland. Capt. Daniel Carlisle do. ——— Pomeroy ——— Ketchel Chesterfield; and John Miles of Keene. I do not hear of any others who have subscribed; and altho' some of those above mentioned are Principals in the late revolt, yet there are many others whose influence hath been equal, and some who have exceeded any of those above mentioned in sowing Sedition, that it still appears necessary to keep the Rod extended and that nothing of the Laudable Vigour manifested by the State should be abated, the Rod may be lightly laid on, but must not be thrown aside for the Childs Crying as we may collect from

the Great Solomon — People in general are more Cool and Moderate, and I believe disposed of belonging to any other State than this; and have reason to think that those measures adopted by the States readily adhered to and pursued will in a little time cause people in this County, at least, if not elsewhere to return to their allegiance and duty — I determine to attend the General Court next Session, when I hope to be able to give a more agreeable narrative of Affairs in this quarter, until which I am Sir

your very Humble Servt —

Letter from Benj.n Giles to Genl. B. Bellows.

Hon.rd Sr.

Were it not for some wilful (as I suppose) misrepresentations of Facts, which I am informed has taken place in the minds of many and in yours Sr. in particular. I should not have troubled you with reading me myself in writing these lines, I am informed Coll. Hale has reported that I pawned my hon.r on it, that I would peaceably go with him to Exeter, or used Language which conveyed such an Idea, now Sr. this is the truth and I made him no other Promise (which if it is any satisfaction to you or others I will prove by the Affidavit of Sundry credible persons) than this that as the people put me in to Office, if they would support me I did not mean to go with him to Exeter, if they would not I would go with him peaceably, this Sr. you may depend on for truth but Coll. Hale to establish his credit as an Officer, was I suppose at a loss, and chose rather to Asperse my Character, than that any person should have any Jealousy respecting his Conduct in that affair, but I hope time will favor me with an opportunity to treat him in a more honorable manner than he has treated me ___ now upon a different subject, I would just hint to you something respecting my conduct in joyning with the State of Vermont so called, I doubt not it was strange to you and many others, and Especially when I tell you that I never fully believed that Cheshire and Grafton Counties would obtain the Sanction of Congress, so as to

2 pg be united to the State of Vermont, this being true no doubt you will think I acted very inconsistently: and tho' it may not seem to have even the appearance of reason to you or others yet what follows, sway'd my mind, and I meant to act the honest man in every point of View. I was well knowing to the prejudices and Animosities in the minds of great Numbers in the County of Cheshire and especially in Grafton County against N. Hampshire and I judged that if they failed in their expectation of their being united to Vermont it would be the most likely method of restoring peace and Union in the State if the advantage was Judiciously improved; and now Sr. the time is come for the Union of those formerly disaffected to take place and I trust your Endeavors will be Exerted to accomplish so happy an Event — and the more the Numbers were, the more likely I thought it would be that Government would pay some attention to the matter of their complaint, for as a great man judiciously observes "there is a regard due even to the misapprehensions of the publick, and no prudent administration, to what is called publick Clamour", and as there is a crisis when on certain subjects, the sober remonstrances of truth and reason are of little avail against the misguided impetuosity of publick prejudice, but happily however, an intemperance of this kind is generally as transient as it is Violent; and as its rage abates (let the cause be what it may) the minds of the people become open to Conviction, then if Government are so wise as to adopt such measures as are calculated to restore peace and Unity it will doubtless be at-

tended with happy consequences, but when Rulers at such times are so unhappy as to suppose that Government is best supported by severe & Coercive measures, a train of Evils generally succeed, and now Sr Thos: I suppose you lightly esteem the Writer, yet if any observations I have made shall in the least engage your mind in Amicably restoring peace to the State, my intention will be fully recompented; hoping you and all who wish well to Government, may wisely improve the present favorable Circumstance for peace and harmony in the State.

I conclude Yr. friend and well-wisher

Benj.n Giles.

Newport
March 6th 1782.

General B. Bellows.

Letter from Jacob Bayley, to Genl. B. Bellows.

Newbury. 30th Sept. 1782.

Dear Sir

Capt. Smith accompanys Capt. Snider who made his Escape from the Enemy in Canada and arrived here yesterday The accounts agrees with what we have received from another Channel, That the Enemy were moving in force Southward on Lake Champlain to the number of four thousand that Majr. Genl. Clark Commands them that Sr. John Johnston was gone westward and supposed to go Down Mohawk River with part of his Core Torys and Indians from another quarter are assured this Day that their Design is Albany Vermont will or are to call in the militia for a cover to their wickedness, but not to obstruct the Enemy Colo. Brackenridge and Capt. Lansing have lately been with a flag from Bennington to Quebeck. had the Privilege of viewing all their Posts and troops (very Condescending in the Brittish) I dont think the Enemy will begin their march untill the Tenth but then they will Proceed rapidly Consider of those matters and prepare I have sent a Ser to Head Quarters last Monday with my first account and now Capt. Snider who has no money, and before the week Ends Doubtless Shall Send again the Certainty of the Enemy's Movements you will be further Informed by Capt. Smith and Capt. Snider.

I am with the greatest Esteem

5

Your very Humble Servant

Jacob Bayley.

Genl. Bellows.

Letter from Isaac Tichenor to The Hon.ble Benjamin Bellows Esq.

Bennington March 14th. 1783.

Dear Sir

Mr Fuller request me to acquaint you, with the result of my application to Congress, in which he is interested — The L.G. sent a memorial in my behalf to Congress Specifying the Amount of Monies due to me & individuals from the public, upon which Congress passed a resolution in my favour recommending me to the Legislature of New Hampshire for redress — which resolution & memorial is inclosed in a Letter from Robert Morris the Financier, to the Governor of New Hampshire to be laid before the Legislature of that State — I only wait for the convening of the Legislature that I may lay the transactions of Congress respecting the debts contracted in your State before them — you will do me a particular favour by informing me when the Legislature will meet, that I may attend —

I am Sir

Your very Obt. mol

Humble Sert

Isaac Tichenor.

Mr. Fuller by the Assistance of his friend here is in a good way of Business — and could he stay here until I could get redress from N. Hampshire, without injuring his Friends in your quarter, it would be to his interest—

Copy of Gov^r Chittendens Letter to the President of Congress. Arlington April 26th 1784

State of Vermont

Sir With that respect for Congress which this Citizens of this State have ever maintained, I beg leave to transmit to your Excellency, the Sentiments of the Council of this State, on the late proceedings of the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York, respecting this State. That your Excellency may lay the same before Congress, for their consideration - On the 21st of October 1779. the Legislature of the State of New York passed a Specious law, empowering Congress to hear and determine the controversy between that State and this, not upon the principles of the Confederation but according to equity. and on the 7th and 21st of August 1781 Congress proposed Preliminaries of a Settlement of said Controversy to this State, which were accepted & fully complied with by the Legislature of this State, at their Sessions in July 1783. The Legislature of the State of New York in the November preceeding, have very Spiritedly remonstrated against the Preliminary Settlement of Congress aforesaid. An extract from which remonstrance is as follows "Resolved that in case of any attempts of Congress to carry into execution their said acts of the 7th and 21st of August last, this Legislature with all due deference to Congress, are bound in duty to their constituent to declare the same an assumption of power in the place of the said act of Submission of this State, and against the clear letter & Spirit of the second, third, ninth, and eleventh Articles of Confederation, and a manifest infringment of the same, and do therefore hereby Solemnly protest against the same". But of late it appears the Senate

and assembly of the State of New York are again urging Congress to decide their controversy with their State. It seems they are willing Congress should settle the dispute. as they have a mind it not otherwise.

It appears from the late journals of the senate of the State of New York "That the delegates be therein instructed to press Congress for a decision in the long protracted controversy respecting the rights of their State to the disputed commonly called the New Hampshire grants" and further "But that if she must recur to force for the preservation of her lawful authority, the important word will pronounce that none of the bloodshed, disorder, or destruction which may ensue, can be imputable to this Legislature"

As to this bloody proposition, the Council of this State have only to remark. that Vermont does not wish to enter into a war, with the State of New York. but that she will act on the defensive, and expect that Congress and the twelve States, will observe a strict neutrality. and let the two contending State settle their own controversy —

As to any allegations of the State of New York, against the conduct of this State, in bringing a few malcontents to justice, and obedience to Government, whom they have misled with Sedition. I have only to observe, that this matter has been managed by the wisdom of the Legislature of this State, who consider themselves herein Amenable to no earthly Tribunal,

Before I conclude this letter, I beg leave to remind Your Excellency that it appears to the Council of this State, improper that the States of New York & New Hampshire who are competitors for the jurisdiction thereof should vote in Congress on any Motion who Respects Vermont; and also contrary to Resolves of Congress resolutions of Congress of the 24th of Sept 1779,

in the words following " and that Neither of the States shall vote on any question relative to the decision thereof" that is relative to the Independence of Vermont. altho' it appears from the Journals of Congress that three declining States have ever since voted on all matters in which the interest of that State, has been concerned.

Sir I conclude this letter with the Satisfaction of reminding Congress, that this State is still desirous of a confederation with the united States.

I have the honor to be Sir
with the highest respect
Your Excellency's Most Obed.t
very humble Serv.t
Thos Chittenden